

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fin for a heat exchanger having brazed plates, which fin is produced from thick sheet-metal having a thickness greater than approximately 1mm and has a pattern reproduced in a general direction (D2) in accordance with a geometric pitch (P) such that the ratio of the minimum thickness (e) of the sheet-metal to the geometric pitch (P) is greater than 0.2, characterised in that it is obtained either by a hot-extrusion operation or by a material-removing machining operation, and characterized in that the ratio is lower than 0.8.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A fin according to claim 1, characterised in that it defines a principal general direction of corrugation (D1) and comprises corrugations which follow one another in a direction (D2) substantially perpendicular to the principal general direction (D1), the corrugation comprising corrugation flanks (3) connecting corrugation peaks (5) and corrugation troughs (7), the corrugation peaks (5) and the

corrugation troughs (7) defining regions for connection by brazing to respective separating plates (8) of the exchanger.

4. (original) A fin according to claim 3, characterised in that at least some of the connection regions (5, 7) have a cross-section the width (L) of which in the transverse direction (D2) is greater than the width (1) defined by the mutually spaced faces of the two corresponding corrugation flanks (3).

5. (previously presented) A fin according to claim 3, characterised in that it has beads (12) in the regions where the corrugation peaks (5) or the corrugation troughs (7) join the corrugation flanks (3).

6. (original) A fin according to claim 5, characterised in that the beads (12) have an outside radius (R) of substantially from 0.2 to 0.5 mm.

7. (previously presented) A fin according to claim 1, characterised in that the pattern has a cross-section which has substantially the general shape of an H.

8. (original) A fin according to claim 7, characterised in that the peaks and troughs (29) defined by the free ends of the H-shaped cross-section of a pattern define regions for

connection by brazing to respective separating plates of the exchanger, and those regions (29) have a thickness (e') greater than the thickness (e) of the other regions of the branches (23, 25) of the H.

9-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A plate heat exchanger, characterised in that it comprises, in at least a first passage, a fin (1 ; 11 ; 21) according to claim 1, which fin is connected by brazing to two successive plates (8).

12. (original) A plate heat exchanger according to claim 11, characterised in that it also comprises, in at least a second passage, a fin produced from thin sheet-metal and connected by brazing to two successive plates (8).

13. (previously presented) A plate heat exchanger according to claim 11, characterised in that it operates with at least one fluid under a pressure greater than 100 bar, especially greater than 200 bar, and preferably of the order of 250 bar, which circulates in the first passage.

14. (previously presented) A fin for a heat exchanger having brazed plates, which fin is produced from thick sheet-

metal and has a pattern reproduced in a general direction (D2) in accordance with a geometric pitch (P) such that the ratio of the minimum thickness (e) of the sheet-metal to the geometric pitch (P) is greater than 0.2,

characterised in that it defines a principal general direction of corrugation (D1) and comprises corrugations which follow one another in a direction (D2) substantially perpendicular to the principal general direction (D1), the corrugation comprising corrugation flanks (3) connecting corrugation peaks (5) and corrugation troughs (7), the corrugation peaks (5) and the corrugation troughs (7) defining regions for connection by brazing to respective separating plates (8) of the exchanger, and

characterised in that at least some of the connection regions (5, 7) have a cross-section the width (L) of which in the transverse direction (D2) is greater than the width (l) defined by the mutually spaced faces of the two corresponding corrugation flanks (3).

15. (previously presented) A fin for a heat exchanger having brazed plates, which fin is produced from thick sheet-metal and has a pattern reproduced in a general direction (D2) in accordance with a geometric pitch (P) such that the ratio of the minimum thickness (e) of the sheet-metal to the geometric pitch (P) is greater than 0.2,

characterised in that it defines a principal general direction of corrugation (D1) and comprises corrugations which follow one another in a direction (D2) substantially perpendicular to the principal general direction (D1), the corrugation comprising corrugation flanks (3) connecting corrugation peaks (5) and corrugation troughs (7), the corrugation peaks (5) and the corrugation troughs (7) defining regions for connection by brazing to respective separating plates (8) of the exchanger, and

characterised in that it has beads (12) in the regions where the corrugation peaks (5) or the corrugation troughs (7) join the corrugation flanks (3).

16. (previously presented) A fin for a heat exchanger having brazed plates, which fin is produced from thick sheet-metal and has a pattern reproduced in a general direction (D2) in accordance with a geometric pitch (P) such that the ratio of the minimum thickness (e) of the sheet-metal to the geometric pitch (P) is greater than 0.2,

characterised in that the pattern has a cross-section which has substantially the general shape of an H, and

characterised in that the peaks and troughs (29) defined by the free ends of the H-shaped cross-section of a pattern define regions for connection by brazing to respective separating plates of the exchanger, and those regions (29) have a

thickness (e') greater than the thickness (e) of the other regions of the branches (23, 25) of the H.

17. (previously presented) The fin of claim 14, wherein, obtained either by a hot-extrusion operation or by a material-removing machining operation.

18. (previously presented) The fin of claim 15, wherein, obtained either by a hot-extrusion operation or by a material-removing machining operation.

19. (previously presented) The fin of claim 16, wherein, obtained either by a hot-extrusion operation or by a material-removing machining operation.